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## THE SUN

BALTIMORE, MD.

(ISSUED MORNING, EVENING AND SUNDAY)

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to a Ripe  
Old Age"

THE life of man takes on a genial sweetness with the passing of the years, a sweetness which is the nature of the man himself and which no art can imitate.

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### A CHRISTMAS IN WAR

"Fighting Boy" Evans' Story of the "Present" to Fort Fisher.

"On Christmas morning," said Rear Admiral Evans, U. S. N., retired, "I thank God that he made three times as much water as land. No true sailor would exchange Christmas at sea for one on shore.

"Of all the Christmases spent at sea the one that rises before me most vividly is that of 1865, when the Federal army and the gunboat fleet were trying to capture Fort Fisher. The only presents we received, and they came fast and furious, were solid shot and shell from the guns of the enemy. But this didn't destroy our sense of humor. The boys would write on each solid shot or shell before placing it in the gun, 'Presented by,' and add the name of the vessel from which it happened to be fired. Mighty few hurled at the fort that day lacked this Christmas greeting. All the gunners caught the spirit of the grim jest, for the fighting line is no place for serious faces.

"Despite the excitement of the fierce combat we managed to have the mast-heads of all the ships trimmed with Christmas greens, even though the sailors had to risk their lives in going ashore to get them, and you may be assured the sentiment of the day was not wasted."

No nation provides more plentifully for the Christmas cheer of its sailors than does Uncle Sam. Each of the battleship crews has a dinner of roast turkey, plum pudding, pumpkin pie and all the trimmings that go with it. The men are served in messes of twenty at 12 o'clock, and each man is allowed one snifter of grog as an appetizer in celebration of the occasion.

The officers dine at 6 o'clock, and, as is the custom when spending the holiday at sea, are guests of the commanding officer.

### TO SEND WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

**Calendars.**  
May all the days  
Throughout this year  
"Rel letters" be  
To you, my dear.

**Handkerchiefs.**  
Twelve bits of white fluff to my  
Lady's boudoir—  
As many as months in the year.  
Here's hoping that never a month  
nor moucher  
Will hold for that lady a tear.

**A Box of Cigars.**  
Many a film of fairy fancy  
Goes up in smoke each year;  
But, being a woman, of course I  
What dream chrysalides are here.  
—Dellmeier.

## GERMANS COVET IRON ORE MINES

In Southern Morocco and That is the Reason They Are So Now.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—The bitterness of an disappointment of the Pan-Germans over the failure of Germany to acquire a part of Southern Morocco (the Sus territory) in the negotiations with France may find some alleviation in the report of the scientists of the Hamburg on their explorations in the Sus.

In this report laid before the directors of the company, it is declared that neither the climate nor the soil conditions of Southern Morocco fit it for colonization nor even for agriculture. The existence of some beds of iron ore is reported, but the investigators are not able to say definitely whether the ore exists in workable quantities and qualities. They are of the opinion, however, that none of the concessionaries of iron mines in Southern Morocco had yet discovered deposits of profitably workable ore.

The company decided, in view of the report, to make no further efforts at this time toward the acquisition of land in that territory. However, further investigations into the metallic resources of the country will be made.

Germany now has in operation seventeen dirigible balloons, eleven belonging to the army and six to private owners. Nine others are being built or rebuilt and will be in service by the end of the year. Many types are represented, but the Zeppelin and Parseval predominate. France has but ten dirigibles, Austria-Hungary four, Russia five and Spain and Italy two each.

In their constant search for means of increasing the efficiency of army balloons in time of war the German military authorities have equipped the newest Zeppelin army balloon with an anchor which is expected to make it possible to land on any ground and under any but the most adverse wind conditions. The destruction of the Zeppelin II, at Wellburg followed the tearing of the balloon loose from its moorings. The new anchor has been tried out in a wind of twenty to worked to perfection.

At a meeting of the Society of German Naval Architects a new kind of screw propeller for ships was described. The inventor is Dr. R. Wagner, the chief engineer of the "Vulkan Works" of Stettin, which has built most of the fast German ocean liners. The invention consists of a second propeller mounted behind the working propeller, but not self itself revolving. Its blades are set in the reverse direction to those of the real propeller, and have the function of checking the swirling movement of the water set in motion by them, which involves a considerable loss of power. Stated in other words, the second propeller tends to hold the water in position so that the revolving blades of the working propeller can act upon it with greater force.

Dr. Wagner said that the invention had been in use for some time on a number of small vessels and that the experiments had showed that it affords an average saving of fifteen per cent. in power over the old form of propeller.

The Reichstag has given the first reading of a bill appropriating above \$11,000,000 for completing the Central Railway for German East Africa to Ujiji on Lake Tanganyika. The road is already in operation to within eighty-three miles of Tabora, the chief trading center of the table-land south of Lake Victoria Nyanza, and will reach that town next spring, a distance of 525 miles from its starting point at Dar-es-Salaam on the coast.

From Tabora to Ujiji is another 255 miles, making the total length of the road 780 miles. It is planned to establish a motor-boat or steamboat service on Lake Tanganyika after the road reaches Ujiji, and it is believed that a considerable freight traffic for it can be built up on this great inland sea of 400 miles in length, as there the various promising agricultural regions adjacent to it.

Great hopes are also entertained in connection with the plan of the Belgian government to build a railway from Bull on the Luialaba Congo to Albertville, situated on the western shore of Tanganyika about thirty miles from Ujiji. This will open up quick connections with the great copper region of Katanga, which is just now reaching the stage of production. It is believed that considerable freight and passenger traffic can be drawn from that district through East Africa, as it offers a much shorter route to Europe than the existing one via Beira on the Portuguese east coast at least 700 miles south of Dar-es-

Salaam. Of course if the English "Cape-to-Cairo" Railway, projected by Cecil Rhodes, is ever completed, this new German road will derive great benefit from it, although that line may take away much of the European passenger traffic.

The German government experts that the completion of the railway to Ujiji will give a strong impulse to cotton growing and other agricultural interests along its route and in the districts adjacent to the lake. A commission has just returned from investigating the agricultural possibilities in that part of East Africa and has reported that it found various localities that are well adapted for growing cotton, as well as for rice, palms and peanuts. There are also regions rich in cattle.

**The Tallest Holly Trees.**  
The American holly appears to attain its greatest size and perfection in southern Arkansas and Texas, where it is to be seen at times from forty to fifty feet in height. In much smaller form it grows naturally, however, along the south shore of Massachusetts among tupelos, black oaks, red maples, cedars, etc., but not much northward of Hingham and Quincy.

**The Little Boy Who Moved.**  
The father missed him when they came to play their evening game. They searched the old red farmhouse through. They called about his name. They even looked inside the barn. But vain their questing proved. So they made up their minds. The little boy had moved. Kris Kringle missed him when he came Upon his reindeer ride. He hunted for him high and low. But not a trace he spied. But still he keeps a lookout sharp To find him if he can— The little boy who went one day To live inside a man. —McLanburgh Wilson in Judge.

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Flannel Shirts  
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